

jute mills of West Bengal from 1st May, 1961; and

(b) if so, why and what steps have been taken to prevent it?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Indian Jute Mills Association

+  
\*1947. { Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association has recently represented to Government to be allowed to undertake a block closure for about 15 days; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in the matter?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). The Indian Jute Mills Association have discussed with Government the possible need to close jute mills for a short period in view of a serious shortage of raw material. It was decided that the position should be reviewed in the latter half of May 1961, when the raw jute stock position and the prospects of the next season's crop would be known a little more definitely.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** May I know what steps are being taken for supplying the shortage of raw jute which will be to the extent of 1 lakh bales?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have already laid a statement on the Table of the House on 4th March, 1961, which elaborately gives the whole position of the various steps that the Government have taken. The steps particularly are to make more raw materials available, to permit to some extent whatever is possible to be imported and to stagger the working hours so as not to cause any serious unemployment.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know the circumstances under which such block closure of jute mills became inevitable and whether that closure was actually effected?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** No; yet; the matter is under consideration. No closure will be effected without consulting the Central Government.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know whether any assessment has been made as to the requirements of raw jute and the amount of consumption?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The shortage is about 12½ per cent.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Before any final decision in this matter is taken, may I know whether Government will also take into consideration the stock position of manufactured jute goods so that export possibilities may not be curtailed?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, Sir. All the relevant factors will be taken into full consideration in consultation with the industry, labour, the West Bengal Government and ourselves.

की विभूति विषय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसा उपाय सुझाया है कि जूट की कमी न हो ? जूट की कमी किसानों को उचित दाम न देने से होती है। इस लिए सरकार क्या कोई इंतजाम सोचती है जिस से किसान को जूट पैदा करते हैं उन को उम के उचित दाम मिलें ?

**श्री यशुभाई शाह:** यह बातें बहुत गौर से देखी गई हैं। यह जूट की फसल महज सीजनल फेलयोर की वजह से पिछले दो साल से फेल हो रही है। चीफ मिनिस्टर वहाँ के जूट प्रोडक्शन को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये सब इतिहाई कोशिश कर रहे हैं और उधर से हम को जो पाकिस्तान से इम्पोर्ट कर सकते हैं उस को भी इम्पोर्ट करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। यह बात

सही नहीं है कि आज जूट के दाम नीचे जा रहे हैं। जूट के जितने दाम आज हैं उतने दाम देश के इतिहास में कभी नहीं थे। पिछले १, २ साल में जूट के दाम बढ़े हैं। जहाँ एक साल पहले फ्रांसम वोटम्स के दाम ३१ रुपये ८ आने थे वहाँ अब उस के दाम करीब करीब ५६ रुपये हैं।

**Shri Ranga:** Are any steps being taken in consultation and collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Ministry to step up the production of jute in Orissa and Andhra where at an earlier stage a larger production was made possible by an assurance of economic prices for jute?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** All those steps are being taken. Every area which is good and vulnerable for jute production will be given all encouragement.

**Shri Ranga:** Is it not a fact that the earlier practice has been abandoned and no assurance is being given to those people about payment of any stabilised price for jute?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have already indicated that the ruling prices of jute have been the highest in record, and these are highly uneconomic prices. As my hon. friend Shri Guha pointed out rightly, nothing should be done in a manner which will jeopardise the greatest foreign exchange earning commodity for the country, namely, jute and jute goods.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** May I know whether any compensation will be given to the workers in case the jute mills are closed, because they have already suffered due to the power cut?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** All those relevant factors will be taken into consideration. I may recall, Sir, that there is a standing agreement about all these matters.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that these mills have already sealed a certain percentage of loomage and Government have, at the same time, also agreed to an additional

sealing of 8 per cent loomage, may I know whether these steps are not adequate for the Mill Association and whether they are not creating artificial conditions by closing down the mills?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There has been no closure, as I have already said. All these matters will be properly considered before any decision is taken. As a matter of fact, unsealing had taken place to some extent. At one stage, as the House will remember, 19 per cent had been closed, and it has been reduced to 12 per cent. The working hours however had to be reduced. All these will be considered when the situation is reviewed.

#### Indian Troops in Congo

\*1946. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian troops were prevented from entering Ndjill airport by the Congolese soldiers at gunpoint; and

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government of India thereto?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) and (b). No, Sir. No such incident as alleged seems to have taken place at the Ndjill (Leopoldville) airport.

#### Indian Nationals in Cuba

+

\*1946-A. { **Shri P. G. Deb:**  
**Shri Arjun Singh**  
**Bhadauria:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian nationals in Cuba are safe; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) and (b). Our Embassy in Washington is taking such action as is possible but they have pointed out that it is extremely difficult to make enquiries owing to interruption of communications. They have records of 19 per-